



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Street Center, Suite 700
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856
(206) 296-8687

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

NAME OF PROPOSAL: Island Center Forest Pilot Project (KPR-S-1103)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: The proposal authorizes a special recreation activity, namely the possession and discharge of certain weapons (modern shotguns, black powder weapons, archery equipment and revolver type handguns) for the purpose deer hunting at Island Center Forest for the period of October 15 to October 31, 2011. The Forest will be closed to all other uses during this limited period.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: Island Center Forest is located near the center of Vashon Island at approximately SW 188th and 115th Ave SW.

PROPONENT & LEAD AGENCY: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that the proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). In making this Threshold Determination, the responsible official has reviewed the completed environmental checklist and other environmental information on file with the lead agency. This information is available for review upon request (and copying for a nominal photocopying charge) of File Number DPR-S-1103 at the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98104. The environmental checklist, DNS and other information are also available on the King County Parks website: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/about/notices.aspx>

This Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340. The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after Wednesday, September 28, 2011. The public comment period is fourteen (14) days from the date of issuance of the DNS pursuant to WAC 197-11-500. Any comments must be submitted in writing by 4:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 28, 2011. If you have any questions, concerns, or require additional information, please contact Connie Blumen (206) 263-6371.

Responsible Official: Kevin Brown

Position / Title: Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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Seattle, WA 98104-3856

Signature: _____

Date: _____

9/13/11



King County

Parks and Recreation Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Island Center Forest Pilot Project (DPR-S-1103)

Name of applicant:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Division of Parks and Recreation

2. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
*Connie Blumen
King County Parks and Recreation Division
201 South Jackson Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3856
(206)263-6371*

3. Date checklist prepared:
August 30, 2011

4. Agency requesting checklist:
**Department of Natural Resources and Parks,
Division of Parks and Recreation**

Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

5. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
This authorization is for a pilot project involving a single 17-day period in 2011. Further activity unknown at this time.
6. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Island Center Forest Site Management Guidelines April 2006
7. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
Yes. King County Parks has submitted a permit application for construction of a picnic shelter on the site. Construction is anticipated for fall 2011 and the shelter would be open to the public beginning winter 2011-2012.

List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

This action to be authorized in writing by Department Director or designee pursuant to K.C.C. 7.12.630.

8. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)
Pursuant to K.C.C. 7.12.630 King County proposes to authorize in writing a special recreational activity, namely, the possession and discharge of certain weapons (modern shotguns, black powder weapons, archery equipment, and revolver-type handguns) for the purpose of deer hunting in Island Center Forest from October 15 to October 31, 2011. Compared to prior years, this authorization would substantially shorten the period for deer hunting in the Forest. As in the past, the deer hunt would be governed by all applicable Washington State hunting laws and regulations. However, unlike past years, and for the purposes of public safety, King County also proposes to close the Forest to all other uses during the limited period when weapons could be discharged there.
9. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.
***The 288 acre Island Center Forest subject to this action is located centrally on Vashon Island at SW 188th St and 115th Ave SW.
Section 36 Township 23 Range 02 and 03
See Exhibit A: Site and Vicinity Map***

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one):
Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
 other _____.
Site is generally flat with some rolling terrain.
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Minimal slopes, less than 10-15%.
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
Alderwood Gravelly Sandy Loam
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
No
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
None.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
No
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
Does not apply. No construction associated with this action.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Does not apply.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
Does not apply. No construction associated with this action and limited duration of activity would produce less emissions than the current level of activity.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
None known
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
None Proposed

3. Water

- a. Surface:
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
Island Center Forest forms the headwaters of Judd Creek, a three mile creek that drains the largest watershed on Vashon Island covering 5.1 square miles. There are two tributaries that originate in the central part of the property to the west of Mukai Pond, which is located on the adjacent property. There are several mapped wetlands on the adjacent property, the largest are Mukai and Meadowlake Ponds, both class 1 wetlands with open water.
 - 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If

yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does not apply to this action.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals _____; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No

a. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, cottonwood, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

Portions of the site contain monoculture stands of Douglas Fir as well as other stands of mixed evergreen and hardwood forest.

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
No vegetation to be removed or altered. No threatened or endangered species on or near the site.
- c. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Does not apply.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:
Limited observation suggests that cutthroat trout may penetrate the streams within the site.
- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
None
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
No
- b. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
No specific measures proposed. However, this authorization will allow a limited hunting season in the Forest with potential to assist in addressing overpopulation of deer on the island.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
Does not apply.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
Does not apply.
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
Does not apply.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
This action reduces hazards by limiting the hunting season to 17 days, considerably less than in previous years.
 - 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
None anticipated.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
This action reduces any hazards by limiting the hunting season to 17 days, considerably less than in previous years. Limited types of firearm use will also reduce health hazards. King County staff and volunteers will be monitoring the use of the site during the 17 day hunting period.
- b. Noise
- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
Area noise not anticipated to affect this action.
 - 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
Noise created by this activity would be related to the sound of firearms. This activity would be limited to the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM. This action decreases the duration of the hunting activity to two weeks, a shorter season than in previous years.
 - 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
Season has been significantly limited to 17 days.
8. Land and shoreline use
- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
The site is currently used for trail activities by hikers, mountain-bikers, runners and equestrians, as well as for dog walking and viewing birds and animals. Adjacent properties include the Island Center Natural Area and rural residential development.
 - b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
No
 - c. Describe any structures on the site.
A kiosk and signage are located on the site.
 - d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No
 - e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Comprehensive Plan designation is Rural Zoning is R-5
 - f. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Does not apply.
 - g. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
There are two unnamed tributaries to Judd Creek and scattered wetlands.
 - h. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
No one will reside on the site. Current maintenance staff and volunteers would continue to work at and monitor the site.
 - i. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None

- j. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Does not apply.
- k. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
The proposed action would continue a historical use of the site. Hunting has occurred on the site for many years and was an established use on the site when King County acquired the site from the State of Washington. The site is a working forest and deer hunting is a compatible use of working forests. Deer, elk and other big game hunting occurs on state and private forests every year, all across Washington State. In recognition of the fact that other uses of the site have increased over time, the proposal limits the hunting season to 17 days. Nearby residents will be notified, media alerted and signage will be strategically placed. Florescent orange hunting vests will be required.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Does not apply.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
Does not apply.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered *or obstructed*?
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
None.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
Does not apply.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
Does not apply.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any?
None

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Island Center Forest is a working resource site within the inventory of the King County Parks Division. The Island Center Natural Area is adjacent to the site at the NE corner. Vashon and Maury Islands include numerous other parks, natural areas, working resource lands and recreational facilities provided by the county and the Vashon Park District; including active sports fields, numerous large and small waterfront parks, including Dockton Park, Dockton Forest, Dockton Natural Area, Maury Island Marine Park and the 236 acre former Maury Island Site, acquired by King County in December 2010. Smaller parks include play areas, trails, and picnic facilities.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
The proposed 17 day closure of the site to other uses and users would displace those users for the short duration to increase safety. These include hikers, mountain-bikers, runners and equestrians along with dog walkers and bird and animal watchers. Other sites on the island, listed in response to part (a) of this question, will remain available for these activities.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
The shooting period is being limited to 17 days, which is shorter than in most previous years. Other recreational uses of the site will be prohibited during the 17 day period, for purposes of public safety. No other measures are proposed for this limited two week period.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
No
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None known.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
Does not apply.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
There are three direct formal access points to the site from public streets.
- *Mukai Trailhead at 115th Ave SW at the north of the site,*
 - *Cemetery Trailhead at 115th Ave SW at the south of the site, and*
 - *Westside Trailhead off of Westside Highway at the west end of the site.*
- An additional access is located at and through the adjacent Island Center Forest Natural Area at SW 188th Street Trailhead.*
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
Site not currently served by transit. No additional parking spaces associated with this action. Existing trailhead parking will serve the site.
- c. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No
- d. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
Minimal or no additional vehicular traffic is anticipated by this action due to island location and expected nearby local users. Any increased vehicle use by hunters would be balanced by the reduction of use by other users during this 17 day period.
- f. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
Proposal not expected to require increased need for public services during this 17 day period. Hunting was an historical use on the site prior to King County ownership. The King County Sheriff's Office reviewed calls in the area last year and found only a few calls of relevance. Two were related to reckless shooting reports that were cleared without arrest and a third was for suspicion of illegal hunting which was also cleared. They found a few other cases of shooting/hunting/suspicious conduct possibly related to hunting over the year, but none that were particularly close to Island Center Forest.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None proposed.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
Does not apply.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
Does not apply.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Shawn Claussen

Date Submitted: 9/8/2011

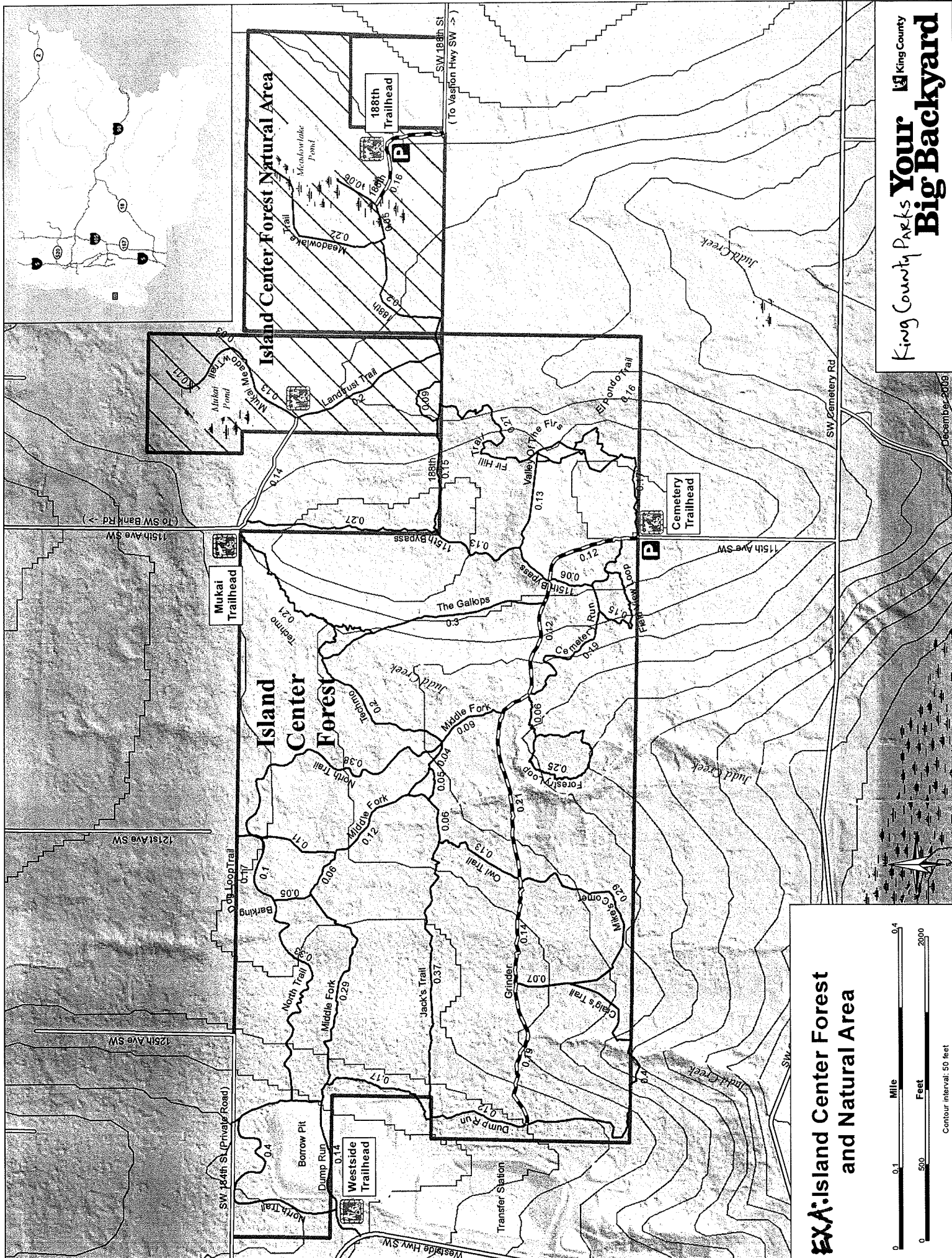
D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?
No increases would likely be attributable to this action because it limits the duration of an historical activity.
2. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:
Not applicable.
3. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?
This proposal would likely decrease any effects associated with the prior levels of this activity on the site.
4. Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:
None.
5. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?
Not applicable to this proposal.
6. Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:
None
7. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?
This action would limit the duration of activity and decrease the historical level of effect on environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for government protection.
8. Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:
None proposed
9. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?
This activity historically occurred on the site. Limited duration would likely decrease its effects.
10. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
None
11. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?
Not expected to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.
12. Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:
None.
13. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.
Proposal is consistent with local, state and federal laws.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.21C.110. 84-05-020 (Order DE 83-39), § 197-11-960, filed 2/10/84, effective 4/4/84.]



EXA: Island Center Forest and Natural Area

